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WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1 1. An electronic method for managing
2 transportation from an origin location, the method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving an activity indicator including an
5 activity location and an activity start time;

6 identifying at least a first airport, the
7 first airport being within a first threshold
8 measurement of the activity location; and

9 identifying at least a first departing flight
10 associated with the at least the first airport, the
11 identified at least a first departing flight associated
12 with a flight arrival time and the first departing
13 flight being at least between the origin location and
14 the at least the first airport;

15 wherein the flight arrival time of the at
16 least the first identified departing flight is prior to
17 the activity start time.

1 2. The electronic method of claim 1, wherein the
2 step of identifying the at least the first airport
3 includes the step of identifying a plurality of
4 airports and wherein the step of identifying the at

5 least the first departing flight includes the step of
6 identifying a plurality of flights associated with each
7 of the plurality of airports.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein each of the
2 identified plurality of flights is associated with a
3 characteristic data item, the method comprising the
4 steps of:

5 comparing the characteristic data item for
6 each of the identified plurality of flights with a
7 flight preference; and

8 ranking each of the identified plurality of
9 flights according to the flight preference.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of
2 comparing the characteristic data item includes the
3 step of comparing the flight price for each of the
4 identified plurality of flights with a flight price
5 maximum; and wherein the step of ranking each of the
6 identified plurality of flights includes the step of
7 ranking each of the identified plurality of flights
8 according to the comparison of the flight price to the
9 flight price maximum.

1 5. The electronic method of claim 1, wherein the
2 step of identifying at least the first departing flight
3 includes the steps of:

4 calculating a travel time between the at
5 least the first airport associated with the at least
6 the first departing flight and the activity location;
7 and

8 determining an activity location arrival
9 time, the activity location arrival time indicating a
10 summation of the flight arrival time and the calculated
11 travel time;

12 wherein the determined activity location
13 arrival time is prior to or equivalent to the activity
14 start time.

1 6. The electronic method of claim 1, wherein the
2 step of identifying at least the first departing flight
3 includes the steps of:

4 calculating a travel time between the at
5 least the first airport associated with the at least
6 the first departing flight and the activity location;
7 and

8 determining an earliest flight arrival time,
9 the earliest flight arrival time representing the
10 result of subtracting the calculated ground travel time
11 from the activity start time;

12 wherein the arrival time of the at least the
13 first flight is prior to or simultaneous with the
14 determined earliest flight arrival time.

1 7. The electronic method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving an activity stop time indicator,
4 the activity stop time indicator indicating a stop time
5 for the activity; and

6 identify at least a first returning flight,
7 the at least the first returning flight associated with
8 a flight departure time and being at least between the
9 at least the first airport and the origin location;

10 wherein the flight departure time of the
11 identified at least the first returning flight is
12 subsequent to the stop time for the activity.

1 8. The electronic method of claim 7, further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 determining if the flight arrival time of the
4 identified at least the first departing flight is on a
5 first day and if the flight departure time of the
6 identified at least the first returning flight is on a
7 second day;

8 responsive to determining that the flight
9 arrival time of the identified at least the first
10 departing flight is on the first day and that the
11 flight departure time of the identified at least the
12 first returning flight is on the second day,
13 identifying a plurality of lodging locations within a
14 lodging threshold distance of one of the at least the
15 first airport and the activity location.

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1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 reserving at least one of the identified
4 plurality of lodging locations.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 receiving an activity indicator includes the step of
3 receiving an address for the activity location.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 identifying at least the first airport includes the
3 step of identifying the at least the first airport, the
4 at least the first airport being within a temporal
5 threshold measurement of the activity location.

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1 12. A computer system for managing transportation
2 based upon a transportation indicator that includes a
3 location and an arrival start time, the computer system
4 comprising:

5 a processor;

6 a storage device connected to the processor,
7 the storage device for storing instructions executable
8 by the processor;

9 a plurality of instructions stored on the
10 storage device, the plurality of instructions
11 configured to cause the processor to:

12 identify at least a first transportation
13 destination, the first transportation destination being
14 within a first threshold measurement of the location;
15 and

16 identify at least a first departing
17 option associated with the at least the first
18 transportation destination, the identified at least a
19 first departing option associated with an option
20 arrival time and the first departing option including
21 transportation between a transportation origin and the
22 first transportation destination;

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wherein the option arrival time of the
at least the first identified departing option is prior
to the activity start time.

1 13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 identify a plurality of transportation
5 origins; and

6 identify a plurality of transportation
7 options associated with each of the plurality of
8 transportation origins.

1 14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein each
2 of the identified plurality of transportation options
3 is associated with a characteristic data item and
4 wherein the plurality of instructions are for causing
5 the processor to:

6 compare the characteristic data item for each
7 of the identified plurality of options with an option
8 preference; and

9 identify each of the identified plurality of
10 options that corresponds with the option preference.

1 15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 compare a transportation option price for
5 each of the identified plurality of transportation
6 options with an option price maximum; and

7 identify each of the identified plurality of
8 transportation options that have a flight price below
9 or equivalent to the option price maximum.

1 16. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 calculate a travel time between the at least
5 the first transportation destination associated with
6 the at least the first departing option and the
7 location; and

8 determine a location arrival time, the
9 location arrival time indicating a summation of the
10 transportation option arrival time and the calculated
11 travel time.

1 17. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 calculate a travel time between the at least
5 the first transportation destination associated with
6 the at least the first departing option and the
7 location; and

8 determine an earliest option arrival time,
9 the earliest option arrival time representing the
10 result of subtracting the calculated travel time from
11 the activity start time.

1 18. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 identify at least a first returning option,
5 the at least the first returning option associated with
6 a option departure time and being at least between the
7 at least the first transportation destination and the
8 transportation origin;

9 wherein the option departure time of the
10 identified at least the first returning option is
11 subsequent to a stop time for the activity.

1 19. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 determine if the option arrival time of the
5 identified at least the first departing option is on a
6 first day and if the option departure time of the
7 identified at least the first returning option is on a
8 second day;

9 responsive to determining that the option
10 arrival time of the identified at least the first
11 departing option is on the first day and that the
12 option departure time of the identified at least the
13 first returning option is on the second day, identify
14 a plurality of lodging locations within a lodging
15 threshold distance of the location.

1 20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 reserve at least one of the identified
5 plurality of lodging locations.

1 21. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 receive an address for the location.

1 22. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 rank the at least the first transportation
5 origin according to its temporal distance from the
6 location.

1 23. The computer system of claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 a network connected to the processor;
4 a remote device connected to the network, the
5 remote device for providing the transportation
6 indicator to the processor.

1 24. The computer system of claim 23, wherein the
2 remote device is a wireless device.

1 25. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 transportation destination is one of an airport, a bus
3 station, a train station, and a shipping terminal.

1 26. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the
2 transportation option is an airline option.

1 27. A computer system for planning
2 transportation, the computer system comprising:
3 a processor for executing instructions;
4 a first storage device for storing an
5 activity indicator, the activity indicator indicating
6 at least an activity time and an activity location;
7 a second storage device connected to the
8 processor, the storage device for storing instructions
9 that are executable by the processor; and
10 a plurality of instructions stored on the
11 second storage device, the plurality of instructions
12 for causing the processor to:
13 identify a plurality of transportation
14 options wherein each of the plurality of transportation
15 options arrives at the activity location prior to the
16 activity time; and
17 reserve a first of the plurality of
18 transportation options.

1 28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the
2 activity location is a cargo destination and the
3 activity indicator is a cargo arrival time.

1 29. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 apply a transportation rule to the plurality
5 of transportation options, thereby identifying the
6 first of the plurality of transportation options.

1 30. The computer system of claim 27, further
2 comprising:

3 a network connected to the processor; and
4 a remote device connected to the network, the
5 remote device for providing the activity indicator to
6 the processor.

1 31. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor
3 to:

4 automatically identify a plurality of
5 transportation options wherein each of the plurality of
6 transportation options arrives at the activity location
7 prior to the activity start time.

1 32. An electronic signal from an electronic
2 device, the electronic signal capable of activating
3 another device, wherein the another device is
4 responsive to the signal to thereby perform steps
5 comprising:

6 identifying at least a first airport, the
7 first airport being within a first threshold
8 measurement of the activity location; and

9 identifying at least a first departing flight
10 associated with the at least the first airport, the
11 identified at least a first departing flight associated
12 with a flight arrival time and being at least between
13 the origin location and the at least the first airport;

14 wherein the flight arrival time of the at
15 least the first identified departing flight is prior to
16 the activity start time.

1 33. The electronic signal of claim 29, wherein
2 the another device is responsive to the signal to
3 thereby perform steps comprising:

4 calculating a travel time between the at
5 least the first airport associated with the at least

6 the first departing flight and the activity location;
7 and

8 determining an activity location arrival
9 time, the activity location arrival time indicating a
10 summation of the flight arrival time and the calculated
11 travel time;

12 wherein the determined activity location
13 arrival time is prior to or equivalent to the activity
14 start time.

1 34. The electronic signal of claim 29, wherein
2 the another device is responsive to the signal to
3 thereby perform steps comprising:

4 calculating a travel time between the at
5 least the first airport associated with the at least
6 the first departing flight and the activity location;
7 and

8 determining an earliest flight arrival time,
9 the earliest flight arrival time representing the
10 result of subtracting the calculated ground travel time
11 from the activity start time;

12 wherein the arrival time of the at least the
13 first flight is prior to or simultaneous with the
14 determined earliest flight arrival time.

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Patent Application
Docket #41400-00002

1 35. An electronic method for planning
2 transportation, the electronic method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 receiving an activity indicator including a
5 plurality of transportation parameters;

6 developing a proposed transportation plan
7 corresponding to the received plurality of
8 transportation parameters;

9 transmitting at least an indication of the
10 proposed transportation plan;

11 receiving an indication of approval of the
12 proposed transportation plan; and

13 responsive to receiving the indication of
14 approval, arranging transportation according to the
15 transportation plan.

1 36. The electronic method of claim 35, wherein
2 the step of receiving an activity indicator includes
3 the step of receiving a scheduled activity from a
4 personal information manager.

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